Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of balancing the supply of bleed air from a plurality of gas turbine engines, there being an air bleed line from each of the engines to a common distribution line which distributes the bled air to at least one ancillary system, each air bleed line including a control valve which is controllable by a controller to vary the flow rate of air bled from the associated engine, the method including providing to the controller a demand signal indicative of the demand for bleed air by the ancillary system, sensing air pressure in the distribution line and comparing the demand signal with the sensed air pressure to derive a command signal, sensing the air flow rates individually in each of the air bleed lines from the engines with respective flow rates sensors which provide air flow rates signals to the controller, comparing the air flow rates in each of the air bleed lines to each other to derive individual flow matching signals for balancing the air flow rate for each of the engines, comparing each of the flow matching signals to the command signal to derive a drive signal for each of the control valves, and applying the drive signals to the respective control valves.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein in comparing the air flow rates in each of the air bleed lines to each other to derive individual flow matching signals for each of the engines, the lowest of the compared air flow rates for the time being ~~of the air flow rates~~ is used as a reference with which the air flow rate or rates for the other or others of the engines is compared so that the air flow rate from the other or others of the engines is ~~matched to~~adjusted to match the air flow rate of the reference.

3. (original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the lowest air flow rate for the time being is determined dynamically.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein there are three or more engines, the method including sensing ~~that~~ when the bleed air flow rate from one of the engines is below a threshold level, providing a control signal to the relevant control valve to cause the control valve to open fully, and balancing the supplies of bleed air from the remainder of the engines.

5. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the ancillary system is an air conditioning system and/or an anti-icing system.

6. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the or at least one of the air flow rate sensors is one of a venturi or hot wire type of sensors.